Story of Swine Management Project

I have been a member of the Sheridan Sluggers Boys 4-H club since 1936. Including this swine management project I have completed 14 hog projects since I began them in 1938. During this time I have experimented with various cross breeds of market hogs and have raised purebred hogs for breeding stock.

This year my brother Charley, for whom I work, and I had a total of 379 pigs farrowed. Of this number 24 were dead at the time of farrowing, 43 were killed before weaning time and 7 died before marketing leaving 306 pigs. Of these 242 were owned by ~~the~~ my brother and 71 by myself. Of these 242, eighty five have been marketed during Sept. and early Oct. at an ave. wt. of 237.37 lbs. 150, estimated to weigh on an average 215 lbs., are still on hand.

I raised for myself 8 litters, ~~one of which~~

~~was a market litter of chester white & Poland China cross, the remaining seven were pure bred C. W. litters.~~

seven of which were purebred Chester Whites; the other litter was a market litter of Chester White and Poland China cross. I chose this cross because in my experiments of crossing hogs I had most success with this combination.

My market litter was farrowed on a cold frosty night Feb. 12. This was the same night as our local County 4-H shortcourse. I knew the sow was going to farrow that night, and because I always stay with my sows during farrowing, I expected to miss out on the 4-H party. But my father stayed with her in my stead and when I came home I was thrilled to find a litter of 14 husky pigs in the pen with the sow. The next day the sow injured two of the pigs which I had to kill. The remaining twelve she raised and I showed them as a market litter at the local Co. 4-H fair. I marketed this litter on Sept. 5 at a total weight of

2850 lbs, an ave. of 228 1/3 lbs.

My seven purebred Chester White sows farrowed 70 pigs from which I raised 24 boars and 34 gilts to market age and weight. Two gilts were marketed; I am keeping 11 gilts for breeding purposes and I sold 18 gilts @ $50 and, at $70 each
and 16 "boars" before Nov. 1. I am estimating the wt. of the 11 gilts that I am keeping for breeding purposes and the 2 I hope to sell and 9 boars to be 61 1/5 lbs.

Shortly before farrowing time the farrowing house was cleaned and disinfected with cre-so-lut. The pens were made ready by putting in guard rails, electric brooders, and a bed of short clean straw.

To accustom the sow to her pen we get her in 2 or 3 day before we expect her to farrow, at this time we also change her rations adding more roughage and limited oatmeal. During farrowing we stay with the sows and assist in every way possible. Sometimes we help the pig get started in sucking and

if they start fighting we clip their teeth.

As soon as possible after farrowing we moved the pigs to a clean ground red clover pasture. We piped water to the pasture and built shade racks to keep the pigs from getting sunburned or overheated in summer. Twice in June with a 10 day interval we treated the pigs for mange with 1 part lime sulphur to 30 parts water. All of our pigs were vaccinated for cholera as soon as the youngest pigs were old enough for it.

The pigs were creep-fed shelled corn, hulled oats, and a commercial milk meal, while they were with the mother sow and when 8 weeks old were weaned. At this time they were put on self feeders of shelled corn, hulled oats and commercial milk meal. Later we discontinued feeding hulled oats and changed from the milk meal to a commercial protein concentrate in pellet form.

Some of the problems which we have tried to overcome are stillbirths, by improving the care and the feed of the sow, and death of young pigs by protection with guard rails and by keeping them warm with electric brooders. ~~We have tried to remove the danger of fighting and~~ By clipping the males or block testing pigs in the fighting of pigs we try to prevent squealing which arouses the sow and lessens the possibility of her laying and stepping on the young. We are also careful in feeding protein to the mother sow in order to prevent scours in the suckling pigs.

In the event of a poor mother the litter is earmarked so we will not keep them for breeding stock.

I am keeping 11 gilts for my 1945 pig crop. I have selected these sows from 34 gilts which I raised this year. I have purchased an outstanding boar from Walrod & Son in Clinton Co. a leading C. H. breeder, for my herd boar

I am keeping more gilts this year than last year because of the increased demand for better boars. Also I am planning to build up a large herd so that next fall I will have plenty of breeding stock if I can start farrowing the following spring.

My experience in hog raising the last seven years has proven to me that to have success in hog raising it is necessary to provide:

1. Properly balanced rations
2. Proper care of sow before, during and after farrowing.
3. Good breeding stock
4. Proper sanitation
5. Vaccination for cholera.

I have also assisted all of my brothers at various times with harvesting and general farming. In the last year I helped four of my brothers ~~concrete~~ with the concreting of sections of their manure yards, ~~I helped~~ and I assisted my brother Raymond in the making of a concrete hog floor. Each year, for the last four years, my father and I have built a movable hog house which has made ~~clean ground hog raising~~ it possible for me to raise hogs on clean ground. ~~I have~~

Because I am planning to increase my hog production in 1945 I will build another hog house next spring. To save time in feeding I rebuilt an old self-feeder ~~which~~ my father gave me and used it in my hog pasture. As ~~the pasture was~~ so my clean ground pasture was 80 rods from the place I had to haul water. To simplify the job I had a lid put on a steel stock tank which I bolted on an old carriage chassis. A large faucet was attached to one end for emptying. During the spring

season

I filled this tank after supper in the evening and ~~hooked~~ pulled it out to the field with one truck or tractor. ~~To another clean ground pasture which was nearer the place we piped the water~~ Water was piped to the other clean ground pasture which was nearer the place. To this I moved steer commercial protein feed near the self feeder + thus saved time in keeping it full. I bought an old ~~tool~~ ~~shed~~ carpenter's tool shed from my uncle.

Paragraph —

In addition to raising hogs we also ~~raised~~ fed twenty steers and milked 14 cows this year. We put in 12 acres of beans which averaged 37 bu. / acre and 60 acres of corn which ~~averaged~~ averaging from 95-100 bushel per acre. ~~I have not decided~~ We raised 14 acres of oats and 12 acres of wheat. We had 15 acres of alfalfa from which we made three choice crops of alfalfa hay. 15 acres of clover was ~~put~~ cut into three clean ground hay pastures. The remainder of the farm was seeded into pastures.